

REGERINGSKANSLIET

6 December 2013

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Mahendra Joshi

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Dear Mr. Joshi,

In reference to the letter from Ms. Jan McAlpine, former Director of the UNFF Secretariat, dated 16 July 2013, I am pleased to hereby send you the Swedish national report on the views and proposals on the international arrangement on forests. Please feel free to distribute the report and post on the web, as you deem necessary and appropriate.

The enclosed report focuses on the experiences and lessons learned, from a Swedish perspective, on the effectiveness of the current international arrangement on forests. Sweden believes that it is too premature, at this stage, to state a preference for options for a possible future arrangement on forests. However, my colleagues and myself look forward to the results of the independent review currently being carried out by consultants, as well as the upcoming discussions at meetings of the ad hoc Expert Group on International Arrangement on Forests.

I wish to thank you and your hard working team in the UNFF Secretariat for a successful year marked by, amongst other things, the celebration of the first International Day on Forests and the tenth session of the Forum.

Allow me also to extend my personal gratitude for your commitment to global forest policy and the UNFF over the past fifteen years. You will be dearly missed by forest friends around the world as you retire early next year.

I wish you and your family a joyful holiday season and best wishes for 2014.

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Encl.: Swedish National Report: Views and Proposals on the IAF

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Section A: Full range of options for the International Arrangement on Forests

<WEDEN WELCOMES THE REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ON FORESTS WHICH PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO REASSESS THE GLOBAL FOREST POLICY DIALOGUE IN LIGHT OF PAST PERFORMANCE AND AT THE SAME TIME ADDRESS CURRENT AND FUTURE GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF RELEVANCE TO FORESTS.

THE WORLD HAS CONSIDERABLY CHANGED SINCE THE START OF THE GLOBAL FOREST POLICY DIALOGUE AT THE JOHANNESBURG CONFERENCE. HOWEVER THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENT IS STILL A REFLECTION OF THE TRACK THAT WAS SET OUT IN 1992 BY THE FOREST PRINCIPLES AND LATER FURTHER DEVELOPED BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON FORESTS AND THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON FORESTS.

<WEDEN BEING A FOREST RICH COUNTRY WITH APPROXIMATELY TWO THIRDS OF THE COUNTRY'S LAND MASS COVERED BY FORESTS HAS LONG REALIZED THE INTERCONNECTIVITY OF FOREST POLICY AT HOME AND ABROAD. CURRENTLY <WEDEN IS RANKED AS THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST EXPORTER OF SAW TIMBER PRODUCTS AND PAPER AND THE WORLD'S FIFTH LARGEST EXPORTER OF PULP. FORESTS ARE IMPORTANT FOR <WEDISH PROSPERITY AND IDENTITY, THE WELLBEING OF ITS PEOPLE AND CONSERVATION OF NATURE.

IN 2002 THE <WEDISH GOVERNMENT DECLARED A FOREST VISION ACCOMPANIED WITH AN ACTION PLAN. THIS INITIATIVE IS CALLED THE SWEDISH FOREST STRATEGY. THE SWEDISH FOREST STRATEGY IS BASED ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF FORESTS AND ENSURING A BALANCED APPROACH TO BOTH THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING A HIGH LEVEL OF PRODUCTION. STRIKING THIS BALANCE IS NOT ALWAYS AN EASY TASK AND SHARING INFORMATION, EXCHANGE ON LESSONS LEARNED AS WELL AS GOOD PRACTICES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IS ONE OF THE TASKS INCLUDED IN THE ACTION PLAN. HOWEVER IT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT SUSTAINABLY MANAGED FORESTS PLAY IN CONTRIBUTING TO POVERTY REDUCTION, FOOD SECURITY, COMBATING GLOBAL WARMING AND THE LOSS OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. THE ACTION PLAN ALSO INCLUDES TARGETS SUCH AS INCREASING EXPORT OF FOREST PRODUCTS AND TECHNICAL KNOWHOW BY 2020 FOR THE FOREST.

CURRENTLY THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE SWEDISH FOREST AGENCY ARE INVOLVED IN MANY DIFFERENT FOREST POLICY PROCESSES AT THE SUBREGIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS. IN ADDITION <WEDEN IS COOPERATING BOTH BILATERALLY AND MULTILATERALLY ON FOREST RELATED ISSUES WITH MANY COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD THROUGH MANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DIRECTLY THROUGH VARIOUS FORUMS. HIS SUPPORT IS

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OFTEN CHANNELLED THROUGH THE SWEDISH MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA).

SWEDEN IS GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POLICY FRAGMENTATION OF FOREST AT DIFFERENT LEVELS. THE REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 3+0 IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT THE BIGGER FOREST GOVERNANCE PICTURE. HIS REVIEW COULD NOT COME AT A MORE OPPORTUNE TIME SINCE DURING THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA BUILDING ON THE EXPERIENCE OF THE 2001 SAN AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF C-15 AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT. IN MANY PROCESSES ARE AT A CROSSROADS AND SWEDEN WILL WORK TOWARDS FINDING A PATH FORWARD THAT GIVES DUE CONSIDERATION TO FORESTS.

IN LIGHT OF THIS SWEDEN BELIEVES THAT IT IS TOO PREMATURE AT THIS STAGE TO STATE A PREFERENCE FOR OPTIONS FOR FUTURE 3+0. SWEDEN LOOKS FORWARD TO THE RESULTS OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW CURRENTLY BEING CARRIED OUT BY CONSULTANTS AS WELL AS THE DISCUSSIONS DURING THE UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE AD HOC EXPERT GROUP ON 3+0 + 2/1. HOWEVER SWEDEN BELIEVES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE CONSULTANTS AND THE +2/1 LOOK AT THE FULL RANGE OF OPTIONS FOR THE 3+0 AND POSITION IT IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.

IN ADDITION SWEDEN BELIEVES IT TO BE IMPORTANT THAT WHEN ANALYZING THE VARIOUS FUTURE OPTIONS ONE DOES THIS IN THE CONTEXT OF PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS SUCH AS PROVIDING FOREST POLICY DIALOGUE* FOSTERING SYNERGIES AMONG DIFFERENT FOREST PROCESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS* AND STRENGTHENING IMPLEMENTATION ON THE GROUND.

THE SOME OF THE POSSIBLE FUTURE OPTIONS THAT SWEDEN WILL ANALYZE IN THE MONTHS TO COME INCLUDE (AMONGST OTHERS)

- CONTINUING THE CURRENT 3+0 WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF STRENGTHENING AND AMENDING ITS MANDATE BASED ON THE ASSESSMENT OF ITS EFFECTIVENESS*
- DEVELOPING THE 3+0 IN A NEW DIRECTION ALLOWING FOR BROADER MANDATE TO ADDRESS LARGER LAND-USE ISSUES IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION MANY WHICH LIE OUTSIDE THE FOREST SECTOR AND LANDSCAPE ECOSYSTEMS*
- STRENGTHENING ALREADY EXISTING FOREST-RELATED LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND POSSIBLY INITIATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT ON FORESTS AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL*
- TRANSFERRING THE GLOBAL FOREST DIALOGUE TO ALREADY EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS AND PROCESSES AT THE HIGH LEVEL ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE AND
- DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING FOREST PROCESSES AT THE REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL LEVEL AND THE POSSIBILITY OF CONNECTING THESE TO A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK EITHER LEGALLY OR NONLEGALLY BINDING.

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Section B: Performance of the UN Forum on Forests and its process since 2000

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* 83 / ; < + 6 + 8 . 2963 = 3 + : : ; 9 + - 2 = 9) ! &

> 8 00 WAS ESTABLISHED IN ! Ž Ž Ž AFTER LONG NEGOTIATIONS AND IT IS A UNIQUE > 8 BODY IN THAT IT HAS UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP BUT IS ORGANIZED UNDER THE / - 9 < 9 - Ł > 8 00'S UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP IS A TESTIMONY OF THE UNIVERSAL RELEVANCE OF FOREST ISSUES. 8 0 OTHER FOREST RELATED ORGANIZATION FOR PROCESS HAS THIS UNIQUE MEMBERSHIP WHICH IS COMBINED WITH A HOLISTIC MANDATE THAT COVERS ALL THREE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT. < WEDEN ALSO BELIEVES THAT - : 0 CONTRIBUTES TO THE UNIQUENESS OF THE > 8 00 (SEE MORE UNDER SECTION / Ł

\$ // : 31 = 2 / 9 / < = + 1 / 8 . + + 63 /

> 8 00 HAS BEEN ABLE TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG GOVERNMENTS AND WITHIN THE > 8 SYSTEM ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FORESTS TO PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD AND HOW FORESTS CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE 7 . 1 S. > 8 00 HAS ADOPTED SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS TO THIS EFFECT OVER THE YEARS (MOST NOTABLY ON THE 8 6 , 3 AND 1 9 0) S. 600KING BACK SOME Ž\$ TO ! Ž YEARS IT IS EVIDENT THAT GOVERNMENTS THROUGH A CONTINUED DIALOGUE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OVERCOME GREAT RESISTANCE IN ORDER TO ADDRESS GOVERNANCE ISSUES SUCH AS LAND TENURE AND ILLEGAL LOGGING . , OTH THESE ISSUES WERE IN THE BEGINNING SO CONTENTIOUS AND DIFFICULT THAT NO ONE DARED TO ADDRESS THEM. = ODAY GOVERNMENTS SPEAK FREELY ABOUT THESE ISSUES AND ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR PROBLEMS OF TACKLING BOTH ILLEGAL LOGGING AND WEAK LAND TENURE RIGHTS. 9 THE ISSUES THAT WERE DIFFICULT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FOREST COMMUNITY TO INITIALLY EMPLOY WERE CONCEPTS DEVELOPED IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION FIELDS SUCH AS ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND LANDSCAPE APPROACH WHICH ARE NOW WIDELY ACCEPTED. > 8 00 HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS BY OFFERING A PLATFORM FOR DISCUSSIONS AND DIALOGUE BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS , INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS.

= HE INTERNATIONAL @EAR OF OORESTS WHICH WAS LATER FOLLOWED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL . AY OF OORESTS ARE ALSO EXAMPLES OF HOW > 8 00 HAS BEEN ABLE TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF FORESTS GLOBALLY AND KEPT IT ON THE > 8 AGENDA FOR THE LAST Ž' YEARS. 3N < WEDEN WE CELEBRATED THE INTERNATIONAL @EAR OF OORESTS BY HIGHLIGHTING THE VERY IMPORTANT AND MULTIFUNCTIONAL ROLE THAT FORESTS PLAY IN THE SOCIETY. = HIS WAS DONE BY CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL @EAR OF OORESTS AT SEMINARS , WORKSHOPS AND OTHER FOREST RELATED ACTIVITIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. + TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN WAS ALSO LAUNCHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ORGANISATION OF OOREST . AYS AT Ž\$ DIFFERENT LOCATIONS SPREAD OVER THE COUNTRY. + WEBSITE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL @EAR OF OORESTS WAS ALSO DEVELOPED WHERE A LARGE NUMBER OF FOREST ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR WERE WIDELY SPREAD.

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300 ARE NOT PRIORITIZED BY GOVERNMENTS AND THERE IS A LACK OF FOLLOW UP
; EPORTING TO > 8 00 IS LOW AND NOT MUCH ROOM IS GIVEN DURING THE
SESSIONS TO ADDRESS OBSTACLES TO IMPLEMENTATION. 7 MORE OVER IT IS
DIFFICULT TO TRACK PROGRESS AND PROPER IMPACT ASSESSMENTS ARE LACKING.

' /19=3=398 , B/A2+><=398

> 8 00 SESSIONS ARE CHARACTERIZED BY LONG NEGOTIATIONS STRETCHING OVER
DAYS AND NIGHTS. THE INFORMAL NATURE AND TRUST BUILDING EXERCISE OFTEN
APPLIED DURING - 63 ARE OFTEN LONG GONE AS COUNTRIES RETURN TO CLASSICAL
GROUPING DURING TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS. COMMON TACTIC SEEMS TO BE
NEGOTIATION BY EXHAUSTION WHICH UNFORTUNATELY IS A COMMON PRACTICE
IN MANY OTHER MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTRUMENTS INCLUDING
> 8 00. THE REAL DEALS IN THE FINAL HOURS OF NEGOTIATIONS ARE DONE BY A
SMALL SET OF PEOPLE IN CLOSED ROOMS.

=HERE IS A TENDENCY THAT MANY COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED BY THEIR > 8
DIPLOMATS RATHER THAN BY FOREST POLICY EXPERTS FROM THEIR CAPITAL. THIS
OFTEN LEADS TO A DIFFICULTY TO ADVANCE ON REAL SUBSTANCE FOR TECHNICAL
ISSUES. INSTEAD MUCH ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO MORE CROSS CUTTING > 8
ISSUES. SWEDEN WOULD WELCOME EXPLORING MORE INNOVATIVE WORKING
METHODS DURING > 8 00 SESSIONS IN ORDER TO STIMULATE FAR MORE FRUITFUL
DIALOGUE ON REAL CONTENT AND COOPERATION ACROSS REGIONAL AND POLITICAL
GROUPS IN ORDER TO BREAK BLOCK DYNAMICS.

=THE TRADITIONAL GROUPING AND POLARIZATION BETWEEN VARIOUS POLITICAL
GROUPINGS MAY ALSO BE A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO WHY > 8 00 HAS FAILED TO
PROGRESSIVELY ADDRESS NEW EMERGING ISSUES AND HELPED TO SHAPE THE
FOREST AGENDA IN A SUCCESSFUL AND EFFECTIVE MANNER. THE COMBINATION OF
BOTH IN EFFECTIVE MEETINGS AND INABILITY TO ADDRESS 'HOT' ISSUES HAS LED
TO THAT > 8 00 IS NO LONGER THE FRONT RUNNER OF THE MAIN FORUM FOR FOREST
POLICY DIALOGUE. INSTEAD THE FOREST DIALOGUE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS HAS
BEEN CONDUCTED IN OTHER FORA SUCH AS IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE
& / . . / 1 FOR THE VARIOUS PROCESSES SET UP AS A FOLLOW UP TO; 10' 1' AND
THE POST-2012 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.

) =+5/296 /; <+; / 60, /23.

+ GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT FROM A SWEDISH PERSPECTIVE IS THE INABILITY OF
> 8 00 TO ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS FOR WHAT IS COMMONLY CALLED MAJOR
GROUPS. MAJOR GROUPS WERE IDENTIFIED AT > 8 - / . IN SWEDEN
HAS ALWAYS ENCOURAGED STAKEHOLDERS TO BE INCLUDED IN ITS DELEGATION
OR HAS FACILITATED THE PARTICIPATION OF SWEDISH STAKEHOLDERS TO
CONTRIBUTE TO THE INPUTS TO THE SESSIONS FROM MAJOR GROUPS. SWEDEN IS
ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE REPRESENTATIVENESS OF SOME MAJOR GROUPS
WHEN NOT A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF STAKEHOLDERS ARE PARTICIPATING AT
> 8 00 SESSIONS.

2 HOWEVER SWEDEN TAKES GREAT PRIDE IN PARTICIPATING IN THE MULTIPLE
STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE DURING > 8 00 SESSIONS. SWEDEN REGULARLY MAKES
STATEMENTS TO SHOW SUPPORT TO EFFORTS MADE BY MAJOR GROUPS AND TO

HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS IN GLOBAL FOREST POLICY MAKING. WEDEN IS OF THE OPINION THAT MAJOR GROUPS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK NOT ONLY DURING THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE BUT ALSO THROUGHOUT THE SESSION BY MAKING SUGGESTIONS TO DRAFT NEGOTIATING TEXT ALONG SOME EXISTING PRACTICES THAT ARE COMMONLY USED IN OTHER PROCESSES SUCH AS THE COREST / EUROPE PROCESS.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

THE COREST INSTRUMENT REPRESENTS A BROAD CONSENSUS ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT. THE COREST INSTRUMENT IS WELL REFLECTED IN THE SWEDISH MODEL OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTS MANAGEMENT. HOWEVER THE COREST INSTRUMENT HAS HAD LIMITED IMPACT ON THE SWEDISH FOREST SECTOR SINCE THE MAJORITY OF ACTIONS IN THE CORESTS INSTRUMENT ARE ALREADY PART OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND NORMAL PRACTICES. THE COREST INSTRUMENT HAS TO SOME EXTENT CONTRIBUTED ALONG WITH OTHER GLOBAL FOREST-RELATED PROCESSES TO RAISE THE NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE INTERCONNECTIVITY OF NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT. AS DISCUSSED EARLIER THIS IS ONE OF THE MAIN FOCUSES OF THE 1995/96-97/98-99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07

AS REGARDS TO THE 1995/96-97/98-99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07 AND IN PARTICULAR THE FOURTH ONE DEALING WITH REVERSING THE DECLINE IN 1990-95 FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT WEDEN WOULD LIKE TO PROMOTE FORESTRY ISSUES IN A MORE COMBINED WAY INTERLINKED IN THE SUSTAINABLE AGENDAS OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT AS WELL AS ENERGY AND PRIVATE SECTOR. THE AIM IS TO FOCUS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FOREST ISSUES IN DEVELOPING CONTEXT AND TRY TO FIND A GOOD ENTRY POINT INTO A BROADER SUSTAINABLE AGENDA.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

THE 1995/96-97/98-99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07 RESOLUTION THAT ESTABLISHED THE SECRETARIAT CALLED FOR A COMPACT SECRETARIAT TO SERVICE THE 1995/96-97/98-99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07 AS A RESULT A SMALL SECRETARIAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1997 AS AN INDEPENDENT UNIT UNDER THE SECRETARIAT BUILDING ON THE PREVIOUS SECRETARIAT THAT HAD BEEN PART OF THE DIVISION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

INITIALLY THE SECRETARIAT ENJOYED GREAT SUPPORT FROM 100 MEMBERS THROUGH SECONDMENTS OF SENIOR STAFF AND 100 MEMBERS. HOWEVER WITH TIME WEDEN NOTES WITH DISAPPOINTMENT THAT 100 MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SENDING LESS SECONDMENTS AND THAT THE LEVEL OF THOSE STAFF MEMBERS HAS DECREASED. WEDEN BELIEVES THAT THE SECONDMENT OF 100 MEMBERS IS AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF ENSURING THE POLICY COORDINATION WHICH IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPLE FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT. OVER THE 100 MEMBERS WITH THEIR DIFFERENT COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES CAN SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHEN THE SECRETARIAT ON KEY TECHNICAL

ISSUES SINCE THE CORE > 8 00 SECRETARIAT ARE OFTEN MORE GENERALISTS OR FORMER > 8 DIPLOMATS.

SEVERAL COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO SECONDED STAFF TO THE SECRETARIAT OR CONTRIBUTED TO THE > 8 00 TRUST FUND THAT HAS ENABLED ADDITIONAL STAFF TO BE HIRED. WE DEN WISHES TO THANK THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED THE > 8 00 TRUST FUND OVER THE YEARS. WE DEN HAS ONLY CONTRIBUTED WITH LIMITED RESOURCES TO THE > 8 00 TRUST FUND AND MAINLY IN SUPPORT OF THE OPERATIVE PROCESS. HOWEVER, WE DEN

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2. HOWEVER, WE DEN SEE THE LIMITATIONS OF - : O AS NOT BEING ABLE TO DELIVER A COORDINATED RESPONSE AT THE OPERATIONAL LEVEL



